**Work stream Integrated Systems Research (ISR)**

6 October 2015, Bamako

Aims:

* Convincing USAID, Eric Witte
* Self-learning as a project

**Activities**

* Review doc, add comprehensive header of 5-6 lines (Asfaw, Jeroen, Peter, Simon)
* Examples (Katrien – Mali, Lulseged – Ethiopia, Fred – Tanzania)
* Phase-2 approach (Bernard, Birhanu)

In which context is a technology useable?

Ecosystems-based 🡪 social-ecological system, resilience, ecosystem services

Evaluate responsible sustainable intensification options

Scalability

Role of interactions between farmers – communities – value chains

Other examples:

* Common pool resources, e.g. grazing lands: multi-scale
* Water flows and erosion

Relate to SDGs and FtF indicators (**poverty, malnutrition**; i.e. 2 SDGs), this describes the demand.

Tools are needed to implement this. Do we have these tools? Can we employ them in phase 2?

Catering for multiple perspectives, but supporting a common decision and plan for the future.

RQ: what are the drivers that allow out-scaling?

Look for small changes and frontrunners, positive deviants.

**Benefits and examples from phase 1**

* A lot of component work has been done, can be input for systems level analysis
* Landscape management intervention with buffer trenches, multifunctional interventions – Ethiopia, in situ experimentation at landscape level with multiple stakeholder groups and levels. LAND landscape management tool, includes erosion models for different interventions, but not economics (Ethiopia team).
* Landscape analysis of interventions for scaling (Fred Kizito)
* Type-specific innovation in Mali (Katrien)
* Typologies and whole farm trade-offs analysis
* SI indicator framework development

**Inputs for proposal phase 2**

* Tools are needed, and collaborative efforts to assess technologies for multiple aspects.
* How do we proof effectiveness? Case studies, trajectories? Low-quality assurance sampling 🡪 frequent sampling and assessment of individuals, communities and landscapes, use drones.
* Others may be work on systems approaches already without knowing. Make aware and reinforce.
* For the USAID missions (Jerry): from commodities a more comprehensive picture of impacts and livelihood improvement. E.g. for maize productivity also markets are important, what are other impacts on the livelihood and environment? Grain production i.r.t. improved food security and income. What pallet of interventions is needed to reach the goals? Provide a complete package. Make missions realize that they already have the components. **Using a systems approach to know what to scale (not scaling systems approaches)**. Scale the products of the systems research. Avoiding unintended consequences, take these into account from the start (sustainable by design?). Which enabling conditions and co-investments are required?
* Work with partners to allow scaling. Have to **work with large number of farmers**.
* How are we going to do it? 🡪 How to do systems research supporting scaling. What are the steps? Which partnerships? Joint protocols.
  + Vision of a sustainable future and the steps identified to reach it. USAID-Missions, communities, or researchers can formulate this. For instance maize or groundnut intensification, or other entry points.
  + Link to existing networks, agencies and projects, what is the kind of information that they need?
  + Collect experiences and successes of the first phase.
  + Select monitoring indicators to assess success in reducing poverty and malnutrition, linked to larger scale indicators of performance of regions and countries; what are implications at national level?
  + Assess the context in the study sites on the basis of the data collected in phase 1, with the flexibility to expand to new target areas to allow scaling.
  + Apply the ISR frameworks, tools and methods. This produces evidence.
  + In the advanced phases of the project 🡪 how to foster uptake and out-scaling. Dissemination strategies. Feedback loops to support this, perpetuate learning loops.